



Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

World War II Servicemen Raise American Flag on Iwo Jima 69 Years Ago

It was 69 years ago that American servicemen fought one of the worst battles of World War II in the Pacific. February 19th, 1945 marks the day they landed on the shores of Iwo Jima to fight what would become the bloodiest battle in Marine history. On the fifth day of battle, February 23rd, the 48-star American flag was raised on Japanese soil for the first time atop Mt. Suribachi. Joe Rosenthal's photograph of the famous flag raising became an iconic image and the most recognized symbol of WWII American heroism.

Fifty years after that flag was raised on Iwo Jima, Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima, lead by Dr. George Gentile of Newington, were successful in building the only flag-raising monument of its kind right here in Connecticut on the New Britain/Newington town line. It is unique because it is the only one built by survivors of that horrific battle and is a tribute to their 6,821 comrades who died during that battle, including 100 men from Connecticut whose names are inscribed on it.

Members of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation will mark the 69th Anniversary of this WWII battle by holding events on the weekend of February 22nd and 23rd, 2014. On Saturday, February 22nd, the Foundation will be holding their First Annual Corporate Sponsorship Reception to recognize those individuals and organizations whose donations qualified for this program. The event will take place at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington at 12:00 noon. The buffet luncheon will be followed by distribution of awards to each Corporate Sponsor. A slide show of 2013 Memorial park events will be shown. The event is open to the public but reservations are required. Tickets are \$15 each.

On Sunday, February 23rd, Foundation Vice-President, Mark Adamski, and fellow members of the Fleet Marine Force of historians and reenactors will present a display of WWII American and Japanese military memorabilia. The display will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A ceremony will take place at 10:15 a.m. to mark the time the flag was raised on Mt. Suribachi and a wreath will be placed at the monument to honor those who fought and died during the battle. The names of those KIA will be called and a bell will be tolled for each. Family members are encouraged to participate. The ceremony takes place regardless of weather but displays may be limited in case of rain or snow. Refreshments available.

The Iwo Jima Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers and depends on donations and event proceeds to maintain the National Iwo Jima Memorial and Park. Anyone is welcome to join the Foundation organization.

The National Iwo Jima Memorial Park is located near CCSU at the intersection of Barbour Rd. and Ella Grasso Boulevard in New Britain, CT. It is accessible from exit 29 off Route 9. In case of inclement weather, call ahead to confirm. Any changes will be posted on the Foundation's Face book page at "Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation, Inc." You may also check www.SOSIwoJima.com or call Gary at 860-291-9666.

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